

We Claim:

1. A method for the enhancement of the blood microcirculation and/or the oxygen supply of the skin of the lower extremities in a patient in need thereof, which method comprises administering an effective amount of an aqueous extract of red vine leaves to the patient.
2. A method for prevention of skin changes including prevention of blood clots in the veins or inflammatory reactions in small vessels associated with chronic venous insufficiency, chronic venous hypervolaemia, and/or venous hypertension of the lower extremities in a patient in need thereof, which method comprises administering an effective amount of an aqueous extract of red vine leaves to the patient.
3. A method for prevention or delay of the transition from clinically not relevant early stages of chronic venous insufficiency (CVI) to CVI Stage I, II, or III in patient in need thereof, which method comprises administering an effective amount of an aqueous extract of red vine leaves to the patient.
4. A method for the enhancement of the blood microcirculation and/or the oxygen supply of the skin of the lower extremities in a patient in need thereof, which method comprises administering to the patient a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an aqueous extract of red vine leaves and an excipient or carrier.
5. A method for prevention of skin changes including prevention of blood clots in the veins or inflammatory reactions in small vessels associated with chronic venous insufficiency, chronic venous hypervolaemia, and/or venous hypertension of the lower extremities in a patient in need thereof, which method comprises administering to the patient a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an aqueous extract of red vine leaves and an excipient or carrier.
6. A method for prevention or delay of the transition from clinically not relevant early stages of chronic venous insufficiency (CVI) to CVI Stage I, II, or III in patient in need

thereof, which method comprises administering to the patient a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an aqueous extract of red vine leaves and an excipient or carrier.

7. The method according to one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the composition is suitable for oral administration.

8. The method according to one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the red vine leaf extract contains from 2% to 20% flavonoids.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the red vine leaf extract contains from 2% to 20% flavonoids.

10. The method according to one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the red vine leaf extract contains from 2% to 10% flavonoids.

11. The method according to claim 7, wherein the red vine leaf extract contains from 2% to 10% flavonoids.

12. The method according to one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the flavonoids comprise 0.1% to 15% by weight of the composition.

13. The method according to one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the flavonoids comprise 1% to 10% by weight of the composition.

14. The method according to one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the red vine leaf extract comprises 1% to 90% by weight of the composition.

15. The method according to one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the red vine leaf extract comprises 1% to 70% by weight of the composition.

16. The method according to one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the red vine leaf extract comprises 1% to 50% by weight of the composition.

17. The method according to claim 7, wherein the composition is a film tablet or capsule.

18. The method according to one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the composition is administered in dosages corresponding to 80 mg and 1000 mg of extract daily.

19. The method according to one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the composition is administered in dosages corresponding to 300 mg and 800 mg of extract daily.

20. A method of making an aqueous extract of red vine leaves, the method comprising steps of:

- (a) collecting red vine leaves at a point of time when the content in flavonoids has reached an optimum level;
- (b) drying and crushing the leaves;
- (c) cutting the leaves to pieces; and
- (d) extracting the leaves with water at elevated temperatures for 6 to 10 hours to obtain the aqueous extract of red vine leaves.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising concentrating the aqueous extract of red vine leaves.

22. The method according to claim 20, wherein the leaves in step (d) are extracted with water at temperatures from 60°C to 80°C.